

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The specification and drawings have been amended to correct minor errors.

In reply to the restriction requirement, the applicants elect the invention of Group I (claims 1, 2, 5-19) with traverse. Applicants respectfully point out that the Official Action indicates that the two inventions have the same classification (class 114, subclass 293).

According to MPEP § 803: "If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." According to MPEP 808.02, if the classification is the same, a proper restriction between related inventions would require a different field of search or some clear indication of separate future classification, and a different field of search would require a search for one of the distinct subjects in places where no pertinent art to the other subject exists. A search for a mooring system having an underwater reel/winch may very well turn up pertinent art for mooring systems having reel/winches for various kinds of mooring lines. Therefore, the applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider whether or not it would be a serious burden to examine all of the claims together based on the search that is conducted for the claims of Group I.

Respectfully submitted,



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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings include changes to Fig. 5B. This sheet, which includes Figs. 5A and 5B, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 5A and 5B. In Fig. 5B, the floating platform has been labeled with reference numerals 121 and 135 in a fashion consistent with the labeling of the floating platform in FIG. 5A.

Attachment: Annotated Sheet Showing Changes.

Enclosures: Formal drawings (four sheets) including a formal replacement sheet.

Fig. 5B